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LAW OF THE SEA
STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN REGION
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 7 August 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

At the outset, I would like to make it very clear that the Permanent Mission of Turkey is not responsible for either the initiation or the continuation of this exchange of letters. However, this Mission will not refrain from responding to Greek allegations, as deemed necessary.

The letter from the Permanent Mission of Greece dated 20 July 1995 (A/50/303-S/1995/603) is devoid of any substance and factual argumentation.

The Turkish position is not threatening nor does it harbour any expansionist views. In our two previous letters, dated 21 June (A/50/256-S/1995/505) and 12 July (A/50/279-S/1995/568), we have reiterated that Turkey has no territorial ambitions and that she respects fully the territorial integrity of all her neighbours, including Greece. Now, we would like to invite Greece to announce that she does not harbour any territorial ambitions with regard to the so-called "lost homelands".

This may not be an easy task for the Government of Greece. The irredentist nature of the Greek foreign policy manifests itself in more than one way. To

* A/50/150.

give an example, the similarity between the "Memorandum on Greek Claims" submitted to the Government of the United States of America on 12 June 1942 by the Government of Greece and the current "Military Doctrine" of Greece aimed at "homelands of Hellenism" with reference to the classical ages, is most striking. In 1942, Greeks requested the extension of their boundaries in the north-east to the Rhodope Mountains and in the north-west to the Adriatic. In addition to the realignment of boundaries, the "questions" of Northern Epirus, the Dodecanese, Cyprus and Eastern Thrace were enumerated as issues that more directly concern Greeks. This mentality continues to present the principal threat not only to Turkey but also to peace and stability in the whole region.

On the issue of terrorism, there is ample evidence that the Kurdistan Workers Party, the "PKK", is supported by Greece, politically, morally, financially and logistically. From the dispositions of PKK militants apprehended in Istanbul and Izmir at the end of 1994 and the beginning of 1995, it is understood that terrorists have been trained in Greece and later sent to Turkey to stage violent attacks on tourist resorts. Furthermore, information available directly from the Greek press on the support given by prominent Greek parliamentarians to the PKK substantiates the "Greek connection".

In the past decade, some 5,000 civilians, mostly local women, children and old men, as well as teachers and members of health services, have fallen victim to terrorism in south-eastern Turkey. Greece has not expressed a single word of condemnation against this murderous campaign. On the contrary, she has chosen to employ this as a weapon against Turkey in her self-declared struggle against Ankara.

In order to be able to preach about democratic freedoms, Greece should first clear her own house from the shame of her treatment of the Turkish Muslim minority, the very existence of which is denied by the Greek authorities. Over the years, ethnic Turks have systematically been subjected to human rights abuses involving denials of civil and political rights, restrictions on freedom of movement and expression, interference with the free exercise of religion, denial of ethnic identity, degrading treatment and discrimination on the basis of ethnic origin. A case in point is the notorious article 19 of the Greek Citizenship Law, which stipulates that Greek nationals who are not of Greek ethnic origin may be stripped of their nationality by an administrative decree. The discriminatory attitude reflected by this article targeting the Turkish minority is indicative of Greece's policy towards its own citizens.

By refusing once again to engage in a process of meaningful dialogue, Greece offers self-declared evidence concerning which party is the source of tension in the Aegean. This Greek refusal stems from their expansionist approach towards the Aegean. In fact, Greeks claim territorial rights beyond their borders and then present these as non-negotiable rights. It is precisely due to this unacceptable approach that Greece refuses all forms of dialogue.

Notwithstanding the aforementioned, I would like to reiterate that the invitation extended by Turkey for a meaningful and constructive dialogue aimed at solving existing questions between the two countries still stands.

I would like to request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 39, 75 and 81 of the provisional agenda and of the Security Council.

(Signed) İnal BATU
Ambassador
Permanent Representative